

Minutes of a meeting of **WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL** held on Thursday 18th March 2021 at 7.00pm remotely via zoom

PRESENT: Councillors A Long (Chairman), Mike Smythe (Vice-Chairman), Steve Williamson, Pauline Velten, Chris Wells, Richard Reading, Keith Graham and Roy Iremonger

Also, present: Wealden District Councillor Bob Bowdler
Wealden District Councillor Sue Stedman
6 members of the public
Jackie Cottrell – Parish Clerk

00277 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Cook – work commitments
Cllr Davies – personal reasons
Cllr Powell – work commitments

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

MINUTES

To **resolve** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th February 2021 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

00278 RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th February 2021

Matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda - **NONE**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

00279 RESOLVED to temporarily suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak regarding matters not covered on the agenda. Four Cllrs voted against the motion.

A member of the public informed the Parish Council a group had been set up several weeks previously and had nominated the Black Duck for an ACV (Asset of Community Value). The ACV was live. He requested confirmation of the Parish Council's support of the ACV. The Chairman stated the matter would be discussed under item 14 on the agenda.

A spokesperson for Wild About Warbleton raised concerns regarding the extensive damage down one side of Barley Mow Lane. She requested feedback on what action the Parish Council would be taking. The Chairman stated this item had been discussed at length at the recent Environment meeting and recommendations had been made to address the issue.

STANDING ORDERS WERE RE-INSTATED

REPORTS

5.1. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

WDC Stedman advised the Parish Council to closely follow the sale of the Horse & Groom pub in Rushlake Green which had already been registered as an Asset of Community Value. She suggested the possibility of a community bid.

The Chairman advised the Members the pub had a long tenancy agreement in place. The sale would not affect the tenancy or the operation of the pub. There would be no imminent threat to losing a public house.

WDC Bob Bowdler reported East Sussex County Council had received a £50,000 grant from the government to help achieve the carbon neutral target. He also stated spraying was about to start.

The Chairman thanked WDC Bob Bowdler for his advice and support regarding the David Bysouth bench.

5.2. To receive reports from PCSO Morris – None

5.3. To receive reports from Parish Councillors

Cllr Davies had circulated a report on CIL and an update on Dunn Village Hall prior to the meeting.

Cllr Davies reported no further updates for the Dunn Village Hall.

Cllr Smythe referred to his previously circulated report on the East Sussex Road Safety briefing he had attended on behalf of the Parish Council. He advised the Parish Council needs to ensure they are attending all the available meetings and it has been confirmed areas of risk are being assessed by the police even if there had been no reported deaths. Rushlake Green speed watch statistics had confirmed they were a hot spot which should help. The Chief Constable also confirmed they were hoping more police officers would be on hand to support local speed watch groups and issue fines for offenders.

Cllr Velten stated a meeting had been arranged between the Bodle Street Green Village Hall and Wild About Warbleton in April to discuss wildflowers on the green and surrounding verges in the village.

Cllr Wells reported Warbleton Charity were at a critical stage with the sale of some land.

Cllr Williamson referred to a member of the public's correspondence regarding the state of the roads and that he requested thanks to be passed on to Bill Bentley who had been instrumental in formulating an action plan. The Chairman confirmed Bill Bentley would shortly be retiring.

They were no further reports from Councillors.

5.4. To receive reports from Cllr Smythe – Wealden Planning and Focus group

Cllr Smythe advised he attended the Focus Cluster Group meeting with Chris Bending, the head of planning policy at Wealden. All the separate Parish responses to the Direction of Travel document had been compiled into a list and no opinion was given on that list.

It was acknowledged Planning Enforcement did not appear to be working efficiently. An extra monitoring officer had been recruited.

Each Parish had to submit 2 to 3 points which they felt were imperative to the new plan by the end of March. Members were invited to email Cllr Smythe directly.

5.5. To receive reports from the Parish Clerk

The Clerk referred to her report circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

The Clerk had received the paperwork required from the contractor who would be installing the David Bysouth bench and arrangements were being made to pay for the licences.

Jakk Country Furniture Designs have now received details for the four fingerposts in need of repair work.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council had got the power to activate the 6-month moratorium period on an asset of community value even if they did not wish to make a bid themselves. Any community group cannot trigger the moratorium unless they were set up as a Community Interest Company. The pub could not be disposed of but they could accept offers but not exchange if the 6-month period had been activated.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council could add discuss this item at the April Full Council meeting, it would need to be activated by the 24th April.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

6.1. To receive the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:

(a) CIL – 22nd February 2021

(b) Planning & Development – 23rd February 2021

(b) Environment – 4th March 2021 (not yet distributed)

Noted. The Chairman asked Members to note the CIL minutes for the 26th January had now been distributed.

FINANCE

7.1. To note the Finance reports, bank reconciliations and budget monitor for February 2021

Noted. The Chairman of F&GP Committee asked Members to note the substantial amount of work the Clerk would be doing for Year End and this would be her priority.

7.2. To authorise the bills for payment

Cheque No.	Payee	£	VAT	£ Total	Purpose
	SSALC	30.00	6.00	36.00	Year End Finance Training
	SSALC	30.00	6.00	36.00	Data Protection training
	Jackie Cottrell			14.39	Zoom subscription February Inv69699074
	Jackie Cottrell			14.39	Zoom subscription March – Invoice to follow
	Jackie Cottrell				March Salary
	Jackie Cottrell			9.99	Printer ink
	Wealden District Council	62.50	12.50	75.00	Quarterly dog bin emptying charges Jan-March 2021
	HMRC			394.53	Payroll Jan-Mar 2021
	Jackie Cottrell			7.19	Item's contingency

00280 It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the payments listed above

TO AGREE THE NOTICEBOARD LOCATED AT FOORDS LANE, BEESTONS FARM, VINES CROSS ROAD IS REMOVED AND NOT REPLACED – Resolution needed

The Chairman summarised the recommendations of the Environment Committee asking Members to note the Parish Council were not legally obliged to keep the noticeboard at this location. The Clerk to write to the owner of the building to which the noticeboard was attached. There were no expected costs associated with the removal of the noticeboard.

00281 It was **RESOLVED** to remove the noticeboard located at Beestons Farm

TO AGREE THE MISSING NOTICEBOARD AT THREE CUPS CORNER WILL NOT BE REPLACED – Resolution needed

The Chairman summarised the recommendations of the Environment Committee. There were no further comments from Councillors. The Clerk to update the asset register.

00282 It was **RESOLVED** to not replace the missing noticeboard at Three Cups Corner

TO AGREE THE NEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – Resolution needed

The Clerk referred Members to the previously circulated amendments to the Terms and Conditions of the Environment Committee and went through each item in turn. The Chairman highlighted to Members this committee did not have a permanent Chairman and encouraged them to consider the Chairmanship of this committee as an exciting opportunity.

A further amendment was made to 3.2:

To be responsible for the Council's involvement with all highways, **road safety**, transport and environmental issues and to review and respond to consultations/communications.

00283 It was **RESOLVED** to adopt all the amendments to the terms and conditions of the Environment Committee

APA – Resolution needed

11.1. To consider the option of cancelling the APA for 2021

The Clerk suggested Members follow the advice from SSALC advising parish councils to consider not convening an APA in 2021 bearing in mind social distancing requirements and taking into consideration the time frame March 1st – June 1st. Many other parish councils had already made the decision to cancel. The Chairman agreed and asked Members to note the format of an APA would be better as a public meeting not a virtual one. Another Councillor highlighted village halls would not be allowed to re-open until mid-May but there was still uncertainty surrounding a specific date. Social distancing would require only limited numbers to attend which would defeat the object of the APA itself.

00284 It was **RESOLVED** to cancel the parish council APA in 2021

TO AGREE TO RECIND RESOLUTION 19/067 BODLE STREET GREEN GATES – Resolution needed

The Clerk stated the licence costs for the gates were considered at the recent CIL meeting. These were not a necessity as the time of the original resolution. The extra licence costs totalled £1,258.97. The item had been debated at length and it been agreed to NOT use CIL funds to pay the licence costs of the Bodle Street Green Gates. The Chairman thanked Cllr Velten for all her hard work but advised Members the general reserve levels were not high enough to support the additional expenditure. The Chairman of F&GP agreed with the chairman and highlighted the full costs were not known at the time of original resolution. There were two abstentions.

00285 It was **RESOLVED** to rescind resolution 19/067

TO AGREE TO ADOPT THE NEW WARBLETON PARISH COUNCIL LOGO – Resolution needed

The Chairman recommended adoption of the logo which had been produced at the same time as the artwork for the recent CIL flyer.

00286 It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Warbleton Parish Council logo

TO AGREE TO NOMINATE THE BLACK DUCK PUB AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE – Resolution needed

The Clerk informed Members Wealden District Council had granted the planning permission for a change of use to residential for the Black Duck pub. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to investigate the options of supporting an existing Asset of Community Value which had recently been put in place and the viability of this option now a Decision Notice had been issued by Wealden District Council. He confirmed to members a planning decision could not be overturned unless court action was taken. Several councillors expressed a recommendation for the pub sign which had to be retained to be returned to the original name of the pub which had been in place for 300 years previously.

It was **AGREED** to defer the item to the April Full Council meeting.

UPDATE ON THE USE OF ZOOM FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Clerk updated Members on the legal position of the Parish Council and virtual meetings which would be illegal after the 7th May unless new legislation was agreed by government. She referred to the report distributed prior to the meeting listing options for the already scheduled meetings. The Chairman agreed it would be a wait and see approach to an ever-changing situation.

TO AGREE TO ADOPT THE SSALC MODEL POLICY ON RECORDING OF MEETINGS – Resolution needed

The Chairman advised this policy was required by law.

000287 It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the SSALC model policy on recording of meetings

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING and/or INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

The sale of the Horse & Groom pub to be discussed at the next Full Council meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 15th April at 7pm

The meeting closed at 20.18pm

